

brates, but much of his work was entomological (see the 1963 obituary by E. R. Kalmbach in *Auk* 80: 474-485), and one series of his papers in the Library of Congress is a collection of entomologist's letters, manuscript fragments, and labels. Hundreds of nineteenth and twentieth-century individuals are represented. The value of McAtee's collection is in its wide spectrum; he especially attempted to find samples of the writing of workers in the less 'popular' orders, and his material is a valuable source for those who need to verify or locate such hands. This series of McAtee's papers is arranged alphabetically, and the library is able to supply photocopies at cost if provided with names. Of course, extensive photocopying requests would require personal attention which the library could not provide. A list is maintained of local persons who conduct research for a fee. Inquiries should be directed to the manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540. — R. S. WILKINSON, The American Museum of Natural History, New York City, New York 10024.

THE DEATH'S-HEAD HAWKMOTH: *ACHERONTIA ATROPOS* L. IN A BEEHIVE. — A specimen of this fine moth was brought to Ludlow Museum during October 1983. It had been taken from a beehive by Mrs. Moore of Aston-on-Clun, Shropshire. — W. J. NORTON, M.B.E., F.G.S., F.R.E.S., Curator, The Museum, Ludlow, Shropshire.

OCCURRENCE OF A FULLY-DEVELOPED MALE OF *HIMACERUS APTERUS* F. (HEM.: NABIDAE). — This bug was rather common on trees and shrubs in the Foul登 area of Norfolk in early August 1983; as its name suggests, it is nearly always found in the undeveloped (in this instance micropterous) form. It was gratifying, therefore, to beat from a young pine in a plantation in the above district on the 7th a male with forewings reaching the end of the abdomen. Southwood & Leston (1959, *Land & Water Bugs of the British Isles*: 166) state that this condition is occasional, and more frequent in females in the ratio of about 4 to 1. The occurrence of a male would thus appear to be a somewhat notable event. — A. A. ALLEN.

THE BEDSTRAW HAWKMOTH: *HYLES GALLII* ROTT. NEAR PERTH, SCOTLAND. — On the 21st September 1983, an almost fully grown larva of this species from Roman Road, Almond-bank near Perth NGR 37/065264 was brought into the Perth Museum and Art Gallery for identification. Other records of this species from this part of Scotland would be most welcome. — M. A. TAYLOR, Keeper of Natural Sciences, Perth Museum and Art Gallery, George Street, Perth.

EPITRIX PUBESCENS KOCH (COL.: CHRYSOMELIDAE) IN W. NORFOLK. — On 6th August 1983 I swept three examples of this very local flea-beetle on a strip of fallow ground between two cultivated fields at Foul登, where amongst a great variety of 'weeds' its foodplant, *Solanum nigrum* L., grew sparsely. Fowler

(1890, *Col. Brit. Isl.*, 4: 384) notes the species as extremely local, but, since he wrote, a number of further localities have been found in E. Kent and Essex; from elsewhere, however, I have seen only scattered records. The generally impermanent nature of the black nightshade, an annual typical of disturbed soils, may result in the beetle's being more seldom seen, as a rule, than its congener *E. atropae* Foud.; whereas the latter lives on a host (*A. belladonna*) which, though of very local occurrence, is a perennial that does not move its station from year to year. — A. A. ALLEN.

BORDERED STRAW: HELIOTHIS PELTIGERA D. & S. ON THE WING IN JANUARY. — The winter of 1982-83 was particularly mild, especially in the South West of England. Nevertheless I was extremely surprised to catch a Bordered Straw when it flew in through our opened kitchen door in Sheviock, Cornwall during the evening of 26th January 1983. The specimen appeared very fresh and I suppose the very mild weather must have stimulated not only the early emergence of the insect but also facilitated successful overwintering (or very nearly so anyway) of the species. — S. C. MADGE, 2 Church Row, Sheviock, Torpoint, Cornwall PL11 3EH.

MONOPIS WEAVERELLA (SCOTT), A MYSTERY SOLVED? — Like Mr. Pelham-Clinton (*Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* 95: 212) I also had often wondered where *Monopis weaverella* passed its larval stage. Old bird's nests sometimes contained *M. rusticella* (Huebner) larvae in quantity but never those of this closely related species. Then in July 1981, Mr. J. M. Nelson of the Nature Conservancy Council passed to me for identification a specimen of *M. weaverella* that he had reared from fox faeces collected in May of that year on Flanders Moss NR, West Perthshire. Subsequently several more imagines emerged from the same small piece of dung. The larvae had apparently fed inside the faecal material on a matted matrix of what appeared to be rabbit fur.

On the other hand a large quantity of Golden Eagle pellets collected by Dr. J. Watson (N.C.C.) in the Dubh Loch area of Wester Ross produced only *M. rusticella* and *Tinea pallescentella* Stainton — the former in considerable numbers. Some of these pellets from which moths emerged appeared, at least superficially, to have a similar composition to the fox dung from Flanders Moss. Until other reports occur, it is premature to say that the mystery has been solved but fox dung has, at least on one occasion, acted as the pabulum of the larvae of *M. weaverella*. — K. P. BLAND, 35 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh EH9 3HS.

MONOPIS WEAVERELLA (SCOTT), A SOLUTION TO THE MYSTERY — As an enthusiastic collector of unpleasant detritus, I was delighted to read the article on *Monopis weaverella* by E. C. Pelham-Clinton (*Ent. Rec.*, 95: 212), and here offer a solution to the mystery of the larval pabulum.

Whilst at Dungeness, Kent, on the 7th April 1983, I stumbled